

CITY NEWS

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The new perspective on city living

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Julian Bond brings sobering realities to Ramapo College

MAHWAH — Julian Bond, chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), was guest speaker at Ramapo College of New Jersey's opening convocation, held on the college's campus recently where he addressed "2002: A Race Odyssey" as his topic.

Prior to his address to an audience of 500 students, faculty, administrators and members of the public, Gail Brady, chairperson of the Ramapo College Board of Trustees, awarded Bond an honorary degree. Ramapo President Rodney D. Smith, who read the honorary degree citation, stated:

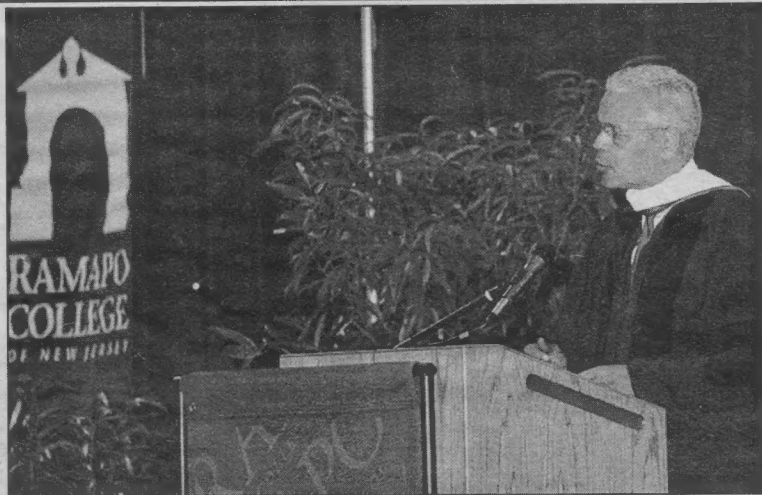
"You must continue your quest for social equality. The people of this country need

you. More importantly, the world needs you. We learned from your example that one voice can and will make a difference. We learned that holding steadfast to your beliefs can change the course of history."

During his address Bond adamantly urged Americans to stop the erosion of civil liberties stemming from the Homeland Security legislation.

Bond who has been on the cutting edge of social change since 1960, summed the nation and world problems up on one word: "Race." Until America comes to grips with the race issue, the nation and the world will continue to have problems he said.

One of the more sobering aspects of Bond's speech was on the topic of social security.



NAACP chairman Julian Bond seen here while speaking at the Ramapo College of New Jersey Convocation this month. The college awarded Bond a honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree.

Bond says that today it takes the incomes of five people to pay into the social security fund for each American. Those five people have names such as Jonathan, Susan, and Dale, Bond said, exemplifying typi-

cal Caucasian American names. Ten years from now, the incomes of three people will make those same payments, however their names will be Shantequa, Jose, and Manish, Bond said, clearly representing

a nation comprised of people of color. Bond said the nation must prepare itself and those future workers for that reality.

The former Morehouse College graduate received a hearty, standing ovation.

Governor's education reforms gets luke warm reaction following initial roll out in New Jersey

NEWARK — Education reforms announced last week by Governor James E. McGreevey are receiving mixed reviews from educators. The Governor called his reforms "the next major step" in delivering "educational quality to New Jersey's classrooms" when he rolled out the 20-point plan to "provide better trained teachers, more learning by (the state's 1.3 million) students and increased accountability and innovation for the state's public school system."

"We will ask more of our children — and their teachers and their schools — to ensure they leave school proficient in all of the skills they need to succeed — including technology skills," Governor McGreevey said during his Education Summit. "Our goal is educational quality for our students so that they are prepared to lead successful lives, and we will provide the training and support that teachers need to achieve excellence in their work."

The Governor's plan calls for seven "better" teaching

"We will ask more of our children — and their teachers and their schools — to ensure they leave school proficient in all of the skills they need to succeed — including technology skills."

— Gov. James E. McGreevey

reforms which include increasing the minimum passing scores for teacher certification exams. There are four reforms under the heading of "more learning" including allowing high school students to "test out" of some required classes and take more challenging courses; and nine "accountability and innovation" reforms.

Sondra Clark, president and CEO of the Black United Fund in Newark said of the reforms, "It all sounds great, however he has a court order the Abbott

program to get that done. Where is he going to get the money?"

Clark said the Governor's strategies require "a transition period" in order to create win-win situations for teachers and students. This must include allowing sufficient time for the teachers to become aware of the new education goals, and to prepare the students, she said regarding the plan to administer a new statewide third grade test this Spring, a year ahead of the federal deadline, to ensure that New Jersey meets our third grade literacy goal.

State Assemblyman Donald Tucker (D-Essex), said he appreciates the Governor's efforts and commitment to education, but he questioned how the state would pay for the implementation of the reforms.

"A lot of the things that the Governor says are fine. It's what you can do with the funding level that we have now," said Tucker, who is a member of the legislature's Joint Committee on Public Schools. "It's the fact that based on the fiscal deficit we don't have the

"What they (urban) students and (suburban students) are learning and the depth of that learning are radically different."

— Henry Johnson, Ph.D.

money. If you can't fund it (reforms) what does that mean?" Tucker asked.

Dr. Henry Johnson, an education expert and CEO of City News Publishing, voiced "strong" agreement with the reform areas that focused on better teaching, and that the "schools should prepare people for that renaissance community," however he said the reforms failed to address "The depth of content delivered to students."

"It's a whole other thing to look at classroom instruction to determine the quality of education that is delivered. Better teaching mined by what happens in the classroom between the

and the students," Johnson said.

Johnson said the state must address how to prepare urban youngsters who attend school every day just as their suburban counterparts do, but are unable to pass the same tests.

"What they are learning and the depth of that learning are radically different," Johnson said. "If youngsters are not learning in schools we have to do something different."

Johnson said he favors the state wide student data base to identify where students are learning and where they are not learning, but that the data base should be "a seamless continuum of information" that identifies textbooks, websites and other support systems that enable parents to track their child's progress and obtain help in those areas where their child is not performing at grade level.

Next month McGreevey plans to meet with education and business leaders to work on a strategy to increase the number of

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Doublemint Aces for Campus Excellence (A.C.E.) Grant Program media alert along with a photo taken last week of Serena Williams and the \$10,000 A.C.E. Grant recipient, Nataniele Powell.

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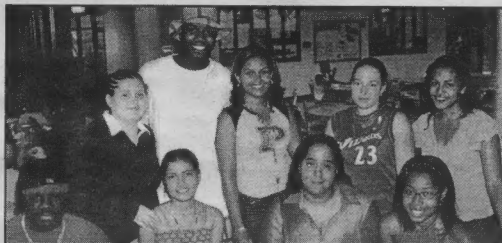
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Great Employee — Hillside resident Kevin Hodge (second from left) was recently named Employee of the Month at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Hodge works for the Department of Food and Nutrition Services. With Hodge is Paul Mertz Executive Director of Newark Beth Israel, Darrell K. Terry Vice Pres. for Administration, Joseph Wojtecki, Operations Manager and Joy Thompson, Dir. of Food and Nutrition Services.



Early Start — Caldwell College's pre-freshmen program allowed students to earn four credits toward their degree. Shown here are (sitting left to right) Robert Seward, Sonia Veiz, Kashinda Wright and Crystal Frye, and (standing left to right) Jackie Hess, Robert Harris, Monica Joy Rivera, Lisa Marie Asedese and Janis Pena.



Middlesex County College students pose with the Princeton University tiger at the recent conference of the National Society of Black Engineers. Pictured left to right are Eric Charles, Jeff Peralta, Travis Tidwell, Mansur R. President, Jimmy McGriff, Neesa Joseph and Russell Jordan.

Curious Observer

Arena referendum update: The count is Belleville — One; and GOP County Executive candidate Candy Straight — Zero as a Superior Court Judge agrees with the little town of Belleville that the her blitz through selected non-urban communities to get the proposed Newark arena location on the November ballot is illegal.

They say that iron sharpens iron so I wonder what will happen not that the Reverend Al Sharpton has named Newark Mayor Sharpe James to his exploratory committee to decide whether he should seek the Democratic nomination for President. James is repaying Sharpton for joining him for an old-fashioned "get out the vote" stomp during his campaign battle last spring.

There was an interesting moment in partisan politics Monday when Democratic Governor James E. McGreevey went to the Trenton-Mercer Airport to greet Republican President George W. Bush who was here to campaign for Republican U.S. Senate candidate Doug Forrester.

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and Dan Sullivan of the Elizabeth Development Company

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Town Hall Meeting concludes blacks must demand fair elections

By Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—With revelations of yet another voting rights fiasco during the recent Florida primary elections, black newspapers, churches and civic organizations are being implored to insist on fair elections even if it means civil disobedience.

"What do we do about a state that continues to violate the rights of citizens and not guarantee that every person that claims to be registered can vote? We've got to take it. ...We've got to give ourselves to civil disobedience," Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) told a town hall meeting on election reforms in Washington as the audience applauded.

Former U. S. Attorney General Janet Reno disputed the results of the Sept. 10 Democratic primary for governor of Florida against Tampa lawyer Bill McBride in which McBride claimed a narrow victory. Voters, mostly in predominantly black precincts of Miami-Dade County, encountered malfunctioning voting machines, polls that opened late, live voters listed as dead,



Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA).

Democratic voters receiving Republican ballots and some voters were directed to the wrong polling places.

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush extended the voting hours because of the fiasco. But Reno refused to concede to McBride until last week.

Separately, Rep. Carrie Meek, a black Democrat, attempted to vote by special ballot before Election Day, but was told that her name was not on the voting rosters. The mistake was because of a computer malfunction, but people behind her in line left during the dispute, her staff says.

The latest violations in Florida—and how to stop them in the future—was the central

focus at the National Town Hall Meeting, the third of a series sponsored around the country by the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), People for the American Way and the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation. The first two town hall meetings, resulting in calls for record registration and an organized voter turnout, were held in January and June.

The new ineptness rekindles the still smoldering anger after Election 2000, when between and estimated four million and six million votes were lost nationally, according to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. That includes nearly 200,000 votes in Florida alone because of faulty voting machines and ballots, voter intimidation and confused poll workers, according to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights. The commission also reported that black voters in Florida were nearly 10 times more likely than non-black voters to have their ballots rejected.

African-American Ministers Leadership Council, suggested that Blacks draw a line in the sand over fair elections.

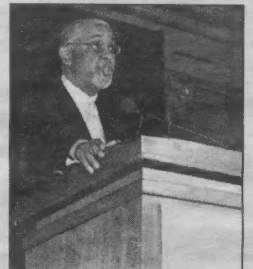
The 'black press' reaches its 175th year

By NNPA News Wire Staff

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—Black publishers from across the United States, and members of the Congressional Black Caucus, which was holding its annual legislative weekend celebrated 175 years of "History Recorded, History Revealed" in Washington, with special recognition of African-American journalists who captured and chronicled the events of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"By having this observance on September 11, 2002, we are acknowledging that the Black Press, its legacy, and its spirited activism are inseparable from the American experience," said John J. Oliver Jr., president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA). The awards and recipients are: Community Service Award: George Wilson, Capitol Hill correspondent for Radio One Inc., was recognized for his comprehensive coverage and reporting of public policy issues related to September 11.

Perspective Reporting Award: Karen Juanita Carillo, freelance writer and photogra-

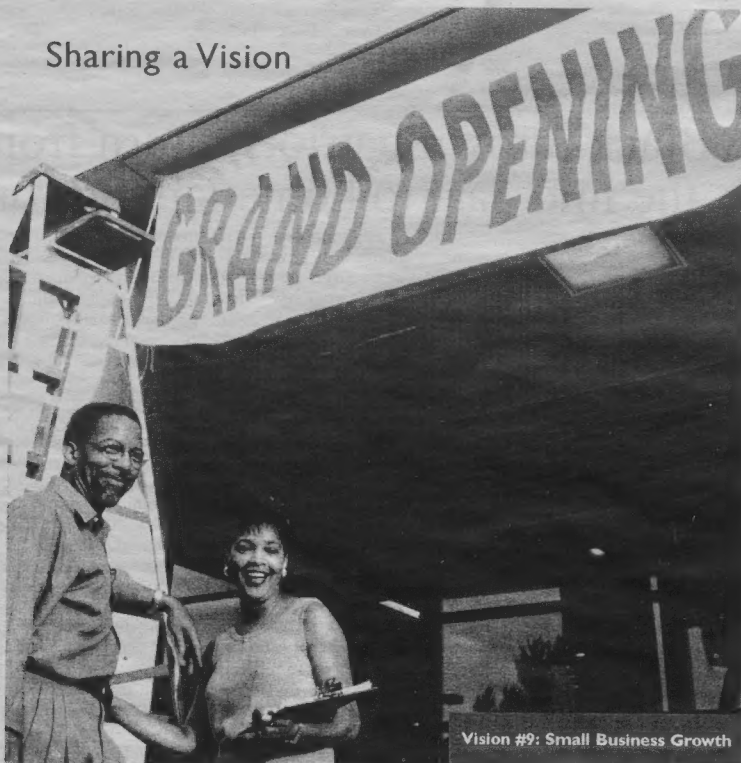


Jake Oliver Jr., NNPA headliner and a regular contributor to the New York Amsterdam News. Carillo was recognized for human-interest coverage of the impact of September 11, highlighting diverse perspectives in African-American communities.

National Reporting Award: Ron Howell, a writer for the New York City edition of Newsday, based in Long Island, N.Y. Howell was recognized for compelling coverage exploring racial experiences related to terrorism.

Said Oliver: "By recognizing the contributions made to the September 11th reporting, we are as well shedding light on how these events have impacted African-Americans."

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Editorial

NJ education reforms are a fair start, at best

Governor James E. McGreevey has made education one of the cornerstones of his administration, and he is to be congratulated for daring to go where no New Jersey governor has gone in the past ten years in terms of trying to get the state on a sound foundation with this behemoth social failing. A failing exacerbated by the fact that the state has battled the poorest schools — those in the Abbott Districts — in court for a decade.

Last week the Governor unveiled a 20-point education reform and innovation plan during an educational summit that was substantially under-represented by African American educators and educators from the urban school centers. We hope this critically essential group of individuals are included next month when Governor McGreevey begins discussions with education and business leaders to start developing a strategy to increase the number of New Jersey teachers who are National Board Certified, and to support teachers who are trying to obtain that credential.

This brings me to my next point. The proposed reforms stressed better teaching standards, but did not directly address what will be taught in the urban schools. It is not enough to focus solely on certification standards, while not addressing curriculum content, people skills, parental support, social services links and student discipline ... a few of the other factors that must be addressed during any discourse on raising the reading, math and science literacy scores of urban students.

There is much anecdotal evidence such as the Whittier Elementary School in Camden and the Abington Avenue School in Newark — to show that urban students can thrive when their teachers are not only appropriately credentialed, but they are motivated, caring and have the constructive disciplinary skills needed to engage students for whom education is a struggle.

We understand that urban students bring unique challenges into the classroom, one has to look no further than West Kinney in Newark where the mobility rate is 97 percent to understand the difficulty in providing a continuous stream of education to children whose personal lives are under constant siege.

We would also caution the state to avoid further takeovers, rather than seeking to reform the laws to allow earlier intervention. The general opinion is that the seven year takeover of Newark was not successful under the first appointed superintendent, but the schools have benefited under the leadership of Marion Bolden, the current superintendent, who has achieved higher attendance, and is beginning to see an upturn in student performance.

It is crucial that the Governor's reforms focus on how to manage the results of the learning that occurs in the classroom so that urban students are kept in the education mainstream and prepared to function and make substantial contributions in the highly technical, rapidly changing world where they will need a Master's degree as well as non technical skills. The Governor's reforms will hopefully lead to the adaptation of solid solutions to improving the quality of education in the state of New Jersey.

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Bush continues Judiciary assault

By George E. Curry

Undeterred by the Senate Judiciary Committee's rejection of two of his far right nominees to serve as federal appeals court judges, a determined George W. Bush is now trying to appoint a law professor who opposed a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling that withheld the tax-exempt status of Bob Jones University because it discriminated against African-Americans.

The Senate Judiciary Committee began hearings on the nomination of Michael McConnell to become a member of the United States Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit in Denver recently. McConnell is a law professor at the University of Utah.

In a 1983 ruling, by a vote of 8-1, the Supreme Court held that the Internal Revenue Service was correct in denying tax-exempt status to Bob Jones University because its policies violated the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Initially, the private conservative, evangelical university in Greenville, S.C., refused to admit any African-Americans. But it later revised its policies to admit blacks as long as they did not date or marry across racial lines, a prohibition that was eventually dropped.

At the time of the suit, Bob Jones University regulations banned interracial dating among other behaviors. The consequence for violating the

dating rule was expulsion.

When the case made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, only William Rehnquist, who is now the chief justice of the Supreme Court, dissented in the decision in favor of the I.R.S.

McConnell, the president's choice to sit on the nation's second-highest court, cited the ruling an egregious example of the Supreme Court's failure to "intervene to protect religious freedom from the heavy hand of government."

The Senate Judiciary Committee is evaluating McConnell's fitness for the job. He signed a petition calling on Congress to pass a Constitutional amendment outlawing all abortions, wrote a brief for the Supreme Court arguing that the Boy Scouts had a constitutional right to discriminate against gays and wants to further destroy the wall in the constitution separating state and church.

Civil rights activists are citing the nomination of McConnell as yet another example of Bush's determination to appoint federal judges whose views are far right of American mainstream opinion.

Barry Lynn, of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, says McConnell is so extreme that he makes failed Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork "look moderate."

After the Senate Judiciary

Committee had rejected the nominations of District Judge Charles W. Pickering Sr. of Mississippi and, more recently, Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen, who was even to the right of Bush's appointees on the state court, one would expect that Bush would nominate judges with more mainstream views. But his nomination of Pickering, Owen and McConnell to serve as appeals court judges underscores his determination to pack the courts with rabid Right-wingers.

Bush's decision to speak at Bob Jones reminds me of Ronald Reagan's decision to kick off his 1980 presidential campaign with a speech at the Neshoba County Fair in Philadelphia, Miss., the site where the bodies of three civil rights workers—James Chaney, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman—were recovered in 1964. They were part of Freedom Summer, a project to help African-Americans vote in Mississippi.

Reagan's decision to go to Philadelphia, Miss., and George W. Bush's decision to speak at Bob Jones University spoke volumes. And so does Bush's decision to nominate a lawyer who feels that the university's discriminatory policies should be subsidized by taxpayers' dollars.

George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and BlackPressUSA.com.

Black, brown patriots return from the mid-east to home land terror

By Jesse L. Jackson Sr.



Following the stolen election of 2000, the United States economy was healthy and experiencing the greatest period of economic prosperity it has ever enjoyed.

From 1992-2000, the federal government had a \$1.5 trillion surplus. It only took nine months for the surplus to be given to the rich (corporations that profit from war) at the expense of the poor.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities recently stated, "The \$5.6 trillion surplus projected last January has declined by \$5.3 trillion, or 94 percent." The Center also notes that "last year's tax cut is the largest single reason the ten-year surplus has shrunk since January 2001."

The Bush administration claimed there was no money for election reform, expanded edu-

cational opportunities, civil rights enforcement or environmental cleanup, yet the federal government immediately found \$43 million to begin the "war on terrorism".

Why not utilize this money for public school building repairs; health care for working Americans; prescription drugs

"The majority of the land troops in Afghanistan and possibly Iraq are African-Americans and Hispanics."

for senior citizen; small- and mid-size businesses; funding for public education; adequate funding for Head Start; optical scan voting machines.

Albeit, the national surplus is important, and there is a vital human need to eliminate terrorism from the world, there is also the need to support the "least of these" in our country.

The majority of the land

troops in Afghanistan and possibly Iraq are African-Americans and Hispanics. Yet, the Bush administration will not provide adequate health care, education or housing for the most destitute populations in the U.S.

Presently, the historically rejected stones of American society are the cornerstones of the country. They (African-Americans and Hispanics) are promoting democracy worldwide.

But, the families of these warriors are not protected from hate crimes in America, they are subjected to an unfair criminal justice system, and they are faced with inadequate educational systems.

Yet, these soldiers continue to fight. Our modern day patriots will return to a country where they will continue to be discriminated against. Regrettably, in such circumstances, it takes more strength to hope than to despair.

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The last day to register to vote in the November General Election is Monday, October 7. City News invites you to exercise your rights!

Live Long, Live Well Walking Program kicks off

Initiative encourages older adults to take steps to better health & fitness

LINCROFT, N.J.— Following the opening ceremonies of the 16th Annual

New Jersey Senior Olympics, more than 100 athletes took part in a one-mile walk to kick-off a new state program that encourages older adults to walk their way to better health and improved physical fitness.

The Live Long, Live Well Walking Program, a New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services' wellness initiative, helps state residents age fifty and older to begin and continue a walking regimen of 30 minutes most days of the week.

"Walking is one of the best

ways for people of any age to become and stay fit," said Health and Senior Services Commissioner Clifton R. Lacy, M.D. "By walking for just a half hour, four or five times a week, older adults can make major strides toward preventing diseases such as obesity, heart disease, diabetes, stroke, osteoporosis and osteoarthritis."

Dr. Lacy noted that the National Academies' Institute of Medicine recently recommended that in addition to a wellbalanced diet, adults and

children should spend a total of one hour each day in moderately intense physical activity, double the daily goal set by a Surgeon General report issued in the mid-1990s.

Live Long, Live Well participants receive a free walker's logbook with helpful hints to make walking a safe, fun and beneficial experience.

Participants can walk alone, with a friend or with a group, and each walker gradually works up to walking the equivalent of two miles per day, four days a week. Participants track

their progress in the logbook and those who walk regularly for 12 consecutive weeks receive a Live Long, Live Well Walking Program Certificate of Achievement.

"Inactivity is a significant public health threat in this country that cuts across all generations," said Dr. Lacy. "We are hopeful that, during the next year, through the Live Long, Live Well Walking Program, more than 5,000 New Jersey seniors will become more active, healthy and physically fit."

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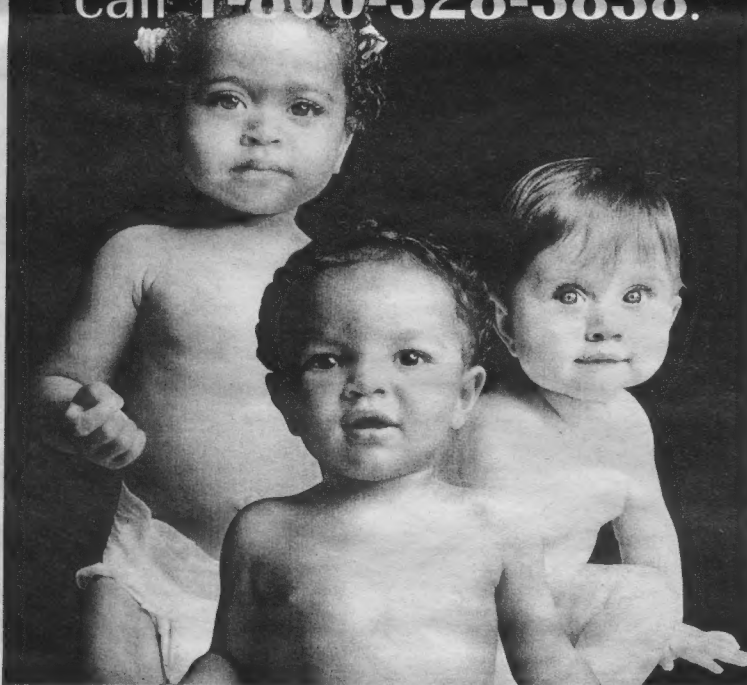
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New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey, Dina Matos McGreevey and their daughter, Jacqueline.

First African-American owned adult day care opens in Newark

A new adult day care center recently opened in Newark at the Hopewell Baptist Church. The center known as Hopewell Medical Adult Day Care is the first African American owned and operated day care center in New Jersey.

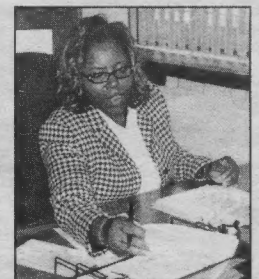
Mary W. Cudjoe, CEO, and the former Director of the Governor's Office of Minority and Ethnic Affairs, and her partner, Dr. Jason C. Guice anticipate serving approximately 150 participants the first year. "Most of the participants are expected to come from the Central Ward, where the need is great," says Cudjoe. The center will be linked to a variety of community resources, including two charter schools in the building. Participants of the center will be offered medical services as well as educational and cultural programs. Participating adults will be able to access pharmacy services, physical therapy, speech language pathologist, nutritional counseling and dental services in one location. The Day Care will be staffed with a nurse, medical director, social worker, activity director as well as recreational aids.

Cudjoe has long recognized a critical need for improved adult day care services in the urban community and wanted to fill this gap. She also envisions new businesses and job opportunities as well to improve the overall economy of this community.

Cudjoe has had extensive experience working with the urban community. She formerly worked for Schering plough Pharmaceuticals for 17 years as Law Librarian before joining the State in 1994 as Executive Director of the Martin Luther King, Jr.

Commission. As Director of the MLK Commission, she displayed the kind of concerns and human feelings that Dr. King talked about to bring together a beloved community.

In 1998 Mary was promoted to Director, of the Governor's Office of Minority and Ethnic Affairs, promoting the platform of the Governor ensuring an effective communication network that will link the Governor to the Minority & Ethnic Community of New Jersey. Cudjoe embraced the importance of her appointment by working with the various Cabinets Commissioners. One of the projects Mary is most proud of is the (IFA) International Franchise Association, (EDA) Economic Development Authority, (NPA) New Jersey Development Authority, and the Governor's Office of Minority & Ethnic Affairs, which encouraged more than 800 franchise company members to take advantage of the opportunities for establishing franchises in New Jersey. She helped link those franchises to Minorities and Women entrepreneurial development throughout the state, particularly in our distressed urban areas.



Mary Cudjoe, CEO of Hopewell Medical Adult Day Care

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Djimon Hounsou

The Four Feathers Interview

with Kam Williams

Actor Talks About His Peripatetic Path from Africa to Europe to Hollywood and Back

Djimon Hounsou (pronounced Jie-mon Hahn-soo) was born on April 24, 1964 in a rural village in Benin, a tiny West African nation wedged between Togo and Nigeria. The youngest of five siblings, at the age of 13 Djimon made his way to Paris to be with a big brother, hoping to take advantage of the better educational opportunities. But, bored by school, he dropped out, and eventually ended up spending over a year on the streets, homeless.

He was living under a bridge and diving into dumpsters for food when he was plucked from obscurity by a French photographer. The shutter-bug introduced him to a fashion designer who hired the handsome Mr. Hounsou as a runway model. Soon, while gracing catwalks all over Europe, Djimon caught the eye of director David Fincher (Panic Room) who cast him in several music videos including crooner-turned-critic Paula Abdul's Straight Up, Madonna's Express Yourself, Janet Jackson's Love will Never Do and Stevie Winwood's Roll with It.

In Hollywood, the photogenic Hounsou expanded his attention to acting in 1990, impressing Steven Spielberg when he played the leader of a slave revolt in Ill Gotten Gains. Spielberg immediately cast Djimon in a similar role as Cinque in Amistad. Since then, the charismatic actor's regal bearing has led to a string of standout appearances in other historical sagas such as Gladiator and The Four Feathers, his latest offering.

In this film, set in the Sudan in 1875, he plays a sort of selfless hero who comes to the aid of a British soldier played by Heath Ledger. Though English is Djimon's third language, I found him to be both eloquent and forthcoming in our fun exchange.

KW: So what made you decide to do this movie?

DH: "Wanting to work with [Indian director] Shekhar Kapur."

KW: Where was it filmed?

DH: "In Morocco and England."

KW: What was it like working on location in the desert?

DH: "Rough. Weather conditions were extreme. We had a lot of support out there to make it work, but nothing fancy at all."

KW: And how did you prepare for the role?

DH: "The best way to prepare was by first getting rid of all the preconceived ideas of what a guardian angel was supposed to be like, since I was never going to know that, anyway. Eliminating all the limitations that family and society put on you."

KW: That must have been difficult to do.

DH: "Of course, it's going to be challenging, but that the actor's struggle."

KW: How did you make the transition from modeling to acting?

DH: "I did a lot of music videos, including one with Janet Jackson."

KW: Did you take acting courses?

DH: "Of course."

KW: How did you get your breakout role in Amistad?

DH: "How did I get the job? I went to the audition like everybody else."

KW: Did you enjoy making Gladiator with Russell Crowe?

DH: "Oh, Gladiator was pleasant and fun. It was a bunch of guy playing making believe that we're tough, and being kids again. It was wonderful."

KW: You're handling all these English lan-

guage roles so well. When did you learn the language?

DH: "When I came to America, about twelve years ago."

KW: What language do you think in?

DH: "I think in English now after all these years. At some point your thinking process shifts, though I still think, at times, in Goun, my African dialect, and in French."

KW: You're from Benin which is next to Nigeria, right? My son informed me of that when I told him I was interviewing you.

DH: "Wow, he knew that? That's rare. He's an educated kid. Cool."

KW: To what do you attribute your success as an actor?

DH: "It's the drive. The dream and the drive. Success? I don't know. You just ride it and hope that it lasts. And you have to keep nourishing it, because it's like a plant."

KW: Tell me about your character in this movie?

DH: "I'm basically playing Heath's guide throughout this, but the subtext, in truth, is that I'm his guardian angel. I appear out of nowhere when he's most needed. And whatever he's experiencing, I'm experiencing. So, when you see his shadow, I'm his shadow. Whatever he's going through, I'm going through."

KW: Are you worried about always being typecast as the noble warrior? Do you see yourself as ever doing a comedy?

DH: "Absolutely. Every actor can be funny, just as everyone's capable of doing drama. So, I'm definitely looking forward to that time and to doing more contemporary pieces. Still, it's very nice to be thought of in a noble way, as a man of wisdom and so forth. Certainly, to be playing those characters has been really, really rewarding."

KW: Are you single?

DH: "I'm not married, I don't even have a girlfriend, because I'm married to my career right now."

'The Golden Voice of Africa,' SALIF KEITA, makes his New Jersey Performing Arts Center debut ...A barefoot supplicant with a voice so full of yearning it transcended language."

Newark — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center presents internationally acclaimed Malian singer/songwriter Salif Keita next month.

This performance is part of World Festival VI: Alternate Routes, sponsored, in part, by American Express and made possible through the generosity of Allen and Joan Bildner and the Bildner Family Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the Wallace Reader's Digest Funds. Salif Keita's unique sound blends together the traditional griot music of his Malian childhood with other West African influences from Guinea, the Ivory Coast, and Senegal, along with influences from Cuba, Spain, Portugal, and an unmistakably overall Islamic sound. Known around the world as "The Golden



Voice of Africa," Salif Keita, is a direct descendant of Sundiata Keita, the Mandinka warrior king who founded the Malian empire in the 13th century. Born an albino in 1949 a sign of bad luck Keita was shunned and ostracized by his family and community alike. His poor eyesight also contributed to his personal sense of alienation. In 1984 he relocated to France, where he joined up with the other Malian population living in Paris, to reach a wider, more European audience.

Keita will perform on Saturday, October 12, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in the Victoria Theater. Tickets are \$31, and may be purchased by telephone at 1-888-466-5722, at the NJPAC Box Office, One Center Street in downtown Newark, or by visiting the NJPAC website at www.njpac.org.

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E Briefs

Aunt Ester remembered



At the age of 81, LaWanda Page, who played the fearsome, Bible-toting aunt Esther Anderson on the 1970s television comedy "Sanford & Son," has died.

The AP reports that Page died recently at Centinela Hospital Medical Center in Inglewood, California from complications of diabetes.

Born in Cleveland on October 19, 1920, Page began her show business career as a dancer and chorus girl on the

club circuit where she was billed as "The Bronze Goddess of Fire" because she lit cigarettes with her fingertips, swallowed fire and touched flaming torches to her body. Childhood friend Redd Foxx gave her the biggest break when he recommended her for the aunt Esther role. Page is survived by a daughter.

Truth Hutts leaves R. Kelly out of music video



The artist, Truth Hutts next single "The Truth" featuring R. Kelly was initially set to be her debut, but with the controversy sounding R. Kelly — allegedly caught on tape having sex with

a minor, "Addictive" was released instead.

Now with "The Truth" being told, R. Kelly is not in the video.

"We knew what song we were going to use, then all that drama happened with R. Kelly and kind of destroyed our hopes of what we were going to do," said Truth to MTV. "R. Kelly's not in the video. Instead we wanted a twist to a man cheating on a girl and a woman's reaction to that. So we kind of followed the guidelines of that movie. It has a little comedy in it. It's gonna be cute — all girls."



J-Lo — her music not of black origin?

Jennifer "J-Lo" Lopez

denies claims that she refused to be a part of MOBO (Music of Black Origin) compilation CD accompanying the award show in October because she says her music is not of black origin.

Earlier this month J-Lo accepted best hip-hop award at MTV's VMAs and previous MOBO nominations, but not consider her style of music to be of black origin," a rep for MOBO said to UK paper the Daily Record.

If J-Lo thinks her music isn't of black origin, will she be selling millions and gaining reorganization from the African-American community with the help of hip-hop stars such as Ja Rule, P-Diddy and Irv Gotti. These men have helped her singing career. If her music isn't of black origin, where is it from?

Kam's Kapsules:

For movies opening September 27, 2002

BIG BUDGET FILMS



Reese Witherspoon

Sweet Home Alabama (PG-13 for adult language and some sexual references) City meets country comedy with Reese Witherspoon as married schemer from Tobacco Road who needs to get a divorce from her trailer trash hubby in order to marry the rich sucker she sweettalks in NYC.



Jackie Chan & Jennifer Love Hewitt

The Tuxedo (PG-13 for violence and off-color content) Bad Company 2. Another Jackie Chan martial arts comedy, this about a chauffeur who is recruited by the US Government to take the place of his hospitalized boss as a spy on a covert operation. Yucks aplenty as inept Chan is paired with inept Jennifer Love Hewitt. James Brown cameos.

INDEPENDENT & FOREIGN FILMS

Biggie & Tupac (R for frequent cursing) Investigative documentary deconstructs alleged East Coast/West Coast rivalry, which resulted in the deaths of rappers Biggie Smalls and Tupac Shakur, implicating ex-con impresario Suge Knight in both deaths.

Crazy as Hell (R for heavy sexual content, profanity and disturbing images) Eriq La Salle makes his directorial debut and stars in adaptation of Satan, a thriller about a widowed shrink haunted to the brink of insanity by images of his wife and child.

Just a Kiss (R for expletives and sex scenes) Romantic (mix of human and animation) comedy about a clique of thirty-something couples whose lives fall apart after an admission of infidelity in their midst.

Shanghai Ghetto (Unrated) Holocaust documentary, undoubtedly inspired by the very moving *Fighters* (2001), follows a couple of survivors back to the Jewish ghetto in China where they found refuge from Hitler's wholesale slaughter.

Skins (R for profanity and violence) Native American saga based on the Adrian Louis novel of the same name, about the different paths two brothers lives take back on the reservation after their return from Vietnam. One becomes a cop, the other an alcoholic. The *Trial of Henry Kissinger* (Unrated) daring documentary, inspired by Christopher Hitchens book, indicts the former presidential advisor for an assortment of crimes against humanity in Cambodia, Chile, Vietnam and elsewhere.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Separate sealed proposal will be received by the Housing Authority of the County of Morris on **Tuesday, October 1, 2002 at 10:00 AM** prevailing time in the Housing Authority of the County of Morris, 99 Ketch Road, Morris Township, New Jersey for:

SNOW PLOWING AND ICE REMOVAL FOR VARIOUS HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF MORRIS FACILITIES FOR THE 2002 - 2004 WINTER SNOW SEASON.

The specifications may be obtained at the Housing Authority of the County of Morris, 99 Ketch Road, Morris Township, New Jersey.

Bids must be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name and address of the bidder and the words "SNOW PLOWING - HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF MORRIS FACILITIES", and presented in person. The proposal when submitted shall be accompanied by a Non-Collusion Affidavit.

BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE HOUR NAMED, NOT BEFORE AND NOT AFTER, AND NO BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED BY MAIL OR OVERNIGHT DELIVERY.

The right to reject any or all bids and to waive immaterial formalities is reserved.

Robert L. Strater
 Executive Director
 Housing Authority of the County of Morris

Advertisement for Bids

The Housing Authority of the City of Long Branch
 Garfield Court Administration Building
 PO Box 337
 Long Branch, NJ 07740

Sealed bids for the "On Call" Plumbing Repair for all Housing Authority Developments

The Long Branch Housing Authority shall receive bids by October 1, 2002, at the Administrative Offices of the Housing Authority until 10:00 am. At 10:00 am all bids shall be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids must be submitted prior to the designated time for acceptance and opening of bids and be submitted either by mail or in person by bidder or his agent. No bids shall be accepted after the designated time.

All bids shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the bidder and clearly marked "On Call" Plumbing Repair.

The information for bidder, form of bid and specification may be reviewed and obtained at the offices of the Long Branch Housing Authority at any time during the regular business hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday starting September 16, 2002. After September 16, 2002 telephone the Long Branch Housing Authority at (732) 222-3747 ext. 110 with any questions.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a certification by the bidder regarding equal opportunity employment practice.

The Authority does not obligate itself to accept the lowest bid and reserves the right to waive any informalities in the bid or to accept or reject any or all bids if deemed in the best interest of the Authority.

Tyrone Garrett
 Executive Director

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Advertisement for Bids

The Housing Authority of the City of Long Branch
 Garfield Court Administration Building
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Sealed bids for the "On Call" Boiler Repair for all Housing Authority Developments

The Long Branch Housing Authority shall receive bids by October 1, 2002, at the Administrative Offices of the Housing Authority until 10:00 am. At 10:00 am, all bids shall be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids must be submitted prior to the designated time for acceptance and opening of bids and be submitted either by mail or in person by bidder or his agent. No bids shall be accepted after the designated time.

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 Executive Director

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the New Jersey Department of Transportation, pursuant to Public Law 100-17, Section 106 (c) of the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Act of 1987 and 49 CFR, Part 26, is proposing an annual goal of eleven and one-tenth percent (11.1%) for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation on federally-assisted highway projects for Federal Fiscal Year 2003 (commencing October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003). The NJDOT further proposes that it will attain eight and six-tenths percent (8.6%) of the DBE goal through race and gender-neutral means, and two and five-tenths percent (2.5%) through race-conscious project DBE goals.

Documentation describing how the New Jersey Department of Transportation determined its annual DBE goal is available for inspection during normal business hours at the Department's principal office listed below for a period of thirty (30) days following publication of this notice.

This is not a notice of formal rulemaking, however, both the Federal Highway Administration and the New Jersey Department of Transportation will accept comments, for informational purposes only, on the aforementioned DBE goal for a period of forty-five (45) days following the publication of this notice at the following addresses:

New Jersey Department of Transportation
 Division of Civil Rights/Affirmative Action
 P.O. Box 600
 1035 Parkway Avenue - 1st floor E & O Bldg
 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600
 Attn: Victoria Rivera-Cruz, Esq., Director
 Division of Civil Rights and Affirmative Action

United States Department of Transportation
 Federal Highway Administration-Region 1
 840 Bear Tavern Road - Suite 310
 Trenton, New Jersey 08628-2595
 Attn: Dennis Merida, Division Administrator

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Calendar

Community

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25 -
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19**

Jersey City — New Jersey City University will offer swimming sessions from 10:00 — 10:50 a.m. at NJCU's Athletic & Fitness Ctr. Class registration is \$65.00. For more info call 201-200-3089.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Holmdel — Monmouth County Park System will host "Harvest Home Festival" at historic Longstreet Rd from 11:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. For more info call 732-946-3758.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Newark — Essex County College will sponsor a seminar addressing child support issues in room 2132 at the college from 6:30 — 8:00 p.m. For more info call 973-877-1895.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

Middletown — Monmouth County Park System's 2002 African-American History celebration begins with keynote speaker, Rev. Calvin O. Butts, III, D. Min at an opening reception, 3:00 p.m. at Tatum Park Red Hill Rd. Activity Center, Red Hill Rd. For more info call 732-460-1167.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Morris — Morris County Park Commission and NJ United for Higher School Standards are co-hosting a free day of fun and learning for the entire family from 12:00 — 4:00 p.m. at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum on 53 East Hanover Ave. For more info call 888-694-9900.

Business

WED., SEPTEMBER 25

Hackensack — Entrepreneurial training institute for the New Jersey development authority for small business, minorities & women's enterprises. Announces the fall 2002 Session, classes are held from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Held at the Country Administration Building. For more info call 609-292-9279.

Somerset — Fleet Renaissance Youth Entrepreneurs Program will host an open house and training session teaching young entrepreneurs to become tomorrow's business leaders from 4:00 — 5:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Community Complex located at 630 Franklin Blvd.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26

North Plainfield — Attend this educational session if you are a Hispanic entrepreneur that needs to know more about resources to operate a small business. Free resources conducted in Spanish from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more info call 908-526-1200, ext: 8516.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Bedminster — Somerset County Alliance for Action inaugural meeting at 8:30 a.m. at Fiddler's Elbow County Club on Rattlesnake Bridge Rd. For more info call 908-439-2123.

Newark — The Greater Newark Business Development Consortium invites you to their 4th Annual collaborative partners luncheon from 11:30 a.m. — 2:00 p.m. at The Regional Business Partnership Ctr. on 744 Broad St. For more info call 973-242-4128.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

New Brunswick — Third Annual Conference on Redevelopment in NJ will be held at the Hyatt Regency from 8:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon. For registration info call 973-912-9007.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 3

New Brunswick — How to succeed in winning corporate and government contracts. A workshop for small business and minority and women owned businesses. This will be a half-day workshop from 8:30 p.m. — 1:00 p.m. For more info call 609-633-0981.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

Iselin — Brownfields Marketplace: A Conference and Showcase for NJ Properties invite developers, bankers, investors, local officials, etc looking for finance and properties to develop to this event from 8:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. at Sheraton at Woodbridge Place. For more info call 609-695-3481.

Newark — Greater Newark Business Development Consortium will host a workshop giving entrepreneurs information & techniques of how to develop a profitable business idea at the RBP Seminar Conference Ctr. from 8:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. For more info call 973-242-5560.

MON., OCT., 7, 14, 21, & 28

Newark — Ron Harris, Founder & CEO of Harris Capital Partners and Metropolitan Baptist Church will sponsor a wealth-building seminar at The Metropolitan Baptist Church Finance Ministry. Sessions are free. For more info call 973-642-2267.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

Jersey City — Pushkin Management Group, LLC will host a lecture series on basic training for small business at 1841 Kennedy Blvd., 2nd Fl. of the Greenville Branch Library. For more info call 201-332-4618.

Heartbeat

ONGOING

East Orange — The Blood Center of NJ accepting blood donations. For info call 1-800-433-6522.

Irvington — Every Wednesday Irvington General Hospital will hold a Women's HIV/AIDS Support Group at 10:00 a.m. For more info call 973-275-0210.

Livingston — Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday Saint Barnabas Medical Center will hold an Ovarian Cancer Support Group. For info call 973-322-2414.

Jackson — Every 2nd and 4th Thursday Kimball Medical Center will hold a Cancer Support Group at 4:00 p.m. For info call 732-359-9667.

Lakewood — Kimball Medical Center will hold Nicotine Anonymous Support Group every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. For info call 732-886-4748.

Newark — Newark Beth Israel Medical Center will hold a Breast Cancer Patient Support Group. For more info call 973-926-7609.

Newark — Newark Beth Israel Medical Center is offering a Look Good, Feel Good Program. For info call 973-322-5000 ext. 22668.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25

Long Branch — Monmouth Medical Center will hold a Family Support Group at 5:00 p.m. For more info call 732-923-6990.

Long Branch — Monmouth Medical Center will hold Hepatitis C Support Group at 7:00 p.m. For more info call 732-923-6990.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3 — Dr. Moses William Howard, Jr., an internationally recognized religious leader and political activist will deliver the Convocation address at Bloomfield College at 2:15 p.m. Dr. Howard is the pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Newark. He served as president of New York Theological Seminary for eight years, and has been a leading participant in the movement against apartheid in South Africa. He led a fact-finding mission to the Middle East in the early 1980's. Dr. Howard holds several honorary degrees, including one from Bloomfield College.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25 -
NOVEMBER 27**

Hackensack — Hackensack University Medical Center is offering a Weight Loss Program for Adults from 7:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m. For more info call 201-393-7460.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Long Branch — Monmouth Medical Center will hold a Gastric Bypass Support Group at 7:00 p.m. For info call 732-923-6990.

Long Branch — Monmouth Medical Center will hold an Attention Deficit Disorder Adult Support Group at 7:30 p.m. For more info call 732-842-4553.

New Brunswick — Saint Peter's University Hospital and Safe Kids New Jersey will host a free Car Seat Checkup at Buccleuch Park from 10:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. For more info call 732-745-8600 ext. 7906.

Livingston — Inglemoor Care Center will hold the Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support group meeting at 10:30 a.m. For more info call 1-800-883-1180.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

New Brunswick — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital will hold a Manic Depression Support Group at 7:30 p.m. For more info call 732-937-8820.

Long Branch — Monmouth Medical Center will hold a Smoke Free Support Group at 7:30 p.m. For more info call 732-923-6990.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

New Brunswick — The Robert Wood Johnson University will hold a "Taking Control of Your Diabetes Course" from 10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. For more info call 732-235-7686.

Union — The First Baptist Church of Vauxhall will offer a free community health fair from 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. at the church located at 5 Hilton Ave. For more info call 973-762-0446.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

New Brunswick — The Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital will hold a Women's Support Group at 7:30 p.m. For more info call 732-418-8110.

Belleville — Clara Mass Medical Center will hold a Breast Cancer Support Group at 3:00 p.m. For more info call 973-450-2332.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

Clifton — Clara Maass Auxiliary will host a Fashion Show at the Valley Regency at 6:30 p.m. For more info call 973-450-2150.

THURS., OCTOBER 3, 10, 17

New Brunswick — Saint Peter's University Hospital Health Center for Women offers a program called "STOP SMOKING" from 6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m. For more info call 732-937-6003.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

Hackensack — Hackensack University Medical Center will hold The Second Party Under the Bridge Charity Run at 9:00 a.m. For more info call 201-393-7460.

Piscataway — The Lupus Foundation Of America will host a "Walk-Along For Lupus" event at Johnson Park at 9:00 a.m. For more info call 1-800-322-5816.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

New Brunswick — Saint Peter's University Hospital offers a free prostate cancer screening for men age 50-plus from 4:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. Call 732-745-8600 ext. 8903.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Saddle Brook — The Lupus Foundation of America hosts "Walk-Along for Lupus" at Saddle River County Park at 9:00 a.m. For info call 1-800-322-5816.

Religion

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Newark — A Fifth Anniversary Celebration/Concert will be held at Metropolitan Baptist Church on 149 Springfield Avenue. For info call 973-642-2267.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Women with a Vision Ministries, Inc., will hold a "Harvest is Ripe" prayer breakfast. For info call 973-923-2964.

Send your calendar items, and photos to City News: By fax, 973-642-5444; By USPS, 111 Mulberry St, TH-C, Newark, NJ 07102-4009; or by email to editorial@citynewsnet-work.com.

Local Briefs

NJ gets \$425M in education grants

Paterson — New Jersey is scheduled to receive more than \$425 million this year in federal "No Child Left Behind" funds. The act seeks to improve student achievement by increasing accountability and closing the achievement gap in Title 1 schools. Governor James E. McGreevey, U.S. Senator Jon Corzine and U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell announced the grant recently.

Black woman heads NJ public defenders

TRENTON — The state Senate has approved the appointment of the first African American woman to head the Public Defender office. Yvonne Smith Segars, of Ridgewood, has been a criminal defense lawyer and public advocate for 17 years. She graduated from Kean University in 1977 and received her law degree from Rutgers Law School, Newark.

Watershed plan may bailout Newark budget shortfall

Newark — Seeking to head off a projected \$83 million municipal budget shortfall, Mayor Sharpe James unveiled his water optimization plan to the City Council recently. If passed the plan seeks to convert the Newark Watershed Conservation and Development Corporation into a nonprofit corporation and is projected to yield more than \$90 million in revenues to the city.

Hawthorne Avenue School tumbling

Newark — Demolition at the century-plus old Hawthorne Avenue school continued over the weekend on a section of the building that has been closed for two years. In the interim temporary classroom units will be used on the site vacated by the demolition of the wing.

Elizabeth receives economic stimulus

Elizabeth — Elizabeth will receive \$4,304,000 in federal assistance to stimulate its economy, promote affordable housing and help the homeless. Elizabeth will receive a combination of Community Development Block Grant funds, Home Investment Partnerships funds and Emergency Shelter Grant funds.

Brownfield bill seeks to boost NJ urban cities

Bill by Senators Rice, Allen called "shot in the arm to rebuild inner city areas that are being left behind."

TRENTON — The Senate Budget and Appropriation Committee approved bipartisan legislation sponsored by Senator Ronald L. Rice and Senator Diane Allen recently to provide incentives for further redevelopment of contaminated sites in urban areas.

"This bill would expand the current commercial property program that reimburses developers for up to 75 percent of the cost of cleaning up

contaminated property to also include residential properties," said Senator Rice (D-Essex). "It's the shot in the arm we need to rebuild areas in our inner cities that are being left behind."

S-1181 bill would only provide for remediation costs when the state is set to receive more in revenues than what is provided to the developer.

Calling the bill "fiscally responsible", Rice said, "Whether you are a developer

or environmentalist, business or municipality, all parties are on the winning end with this bill."

"The program as drafted will help boost both sales and local property tax bases," Rice continued. "With more businesses and housing in our cities, neighborhoods will be revitalized and the state will be on the receiving end of bigger revenue streams."

Remediation funding approval comes from the

Secretary of Commerce. The Secretary of Commerce would consider the likelihood that the redevelopment project will generate new revenue from taxes in excess of the amount the State agrees to provide the developer.

The current program in place has provided for 16 redevelopment agreements with developers since its inception four years ago.

The bill now awaits approval in the full Senate.



Manhattan, Sept. 2002

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me a fee to talk to tellers and my canceled checks are returned free of charge. There are no monthly fees whatever your balance is, no direct deposit requirements and I get a Washington Mutual Visa® Check Card. I also like the fact that this bank's part of a family of companies that's been around since 1889. You should check them out too, because it's not just for people my age—you know, people in their late 30s. And oh, when you stop by to see them, tell them Mariah said hi. Hey, I've got a date. I'll see you in this paper next time."



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